Defensible Space is your property’s front line defense against wildfire. Creating and maintaining defensible space around your home can dramatically increase your home’s chance of surviving a wildfire and improves the safety of firefighters defending your property. **100 feet of defensible space is required by law.**
A total **minimum** “Defensible Space” of 100 feet around your home is required by law. Hazard reduction is required by the State and the County.

Deadline for compliance is **June 1st**

Citations of **$500** can be issued for Hazard Reduction non-compliance and they can be attached to the property tax bill if not addressed.
Homeowner/Service Provider Hazard reduction Goals
(P.R.C. 4291 & KCOC 8.46)

- 100 foot defensible space is split into 2 “zones”:
  - Zone 1 - Clearing an area of 30 feet immediately surrounding the home is critical. This area requires the greatest reduction in flammable vegetation.
  - Zone 2 - The fuel reduction zone in the remaining 70 feet (or to the property line).

- Vegetation, slope and terrain are some factors which could require these distances to be greater.
Defensible Space Requirements

**Zone 1:**

* Removal all **non-ornamental** combustibles and vegetation around all structures
  * What do we consider ornamental vegetation?
  * [www.readyforwildfire.org](http://www.readyforwildfire.org) – lists fire resistant plants
  * “firewise” landscaping

* Remove any dead/dry material such as grass, leaves, limbs, etc.
* Create spacing between ground and limbs of trees and shrubs, as well as other plants (this includes **ornamental** vegetation!)
* Remove trees and limbs within **10 ft.** of stovepipe and chimney outlets
* Remove any limbs that overhang/adjacent to structures within **10 ft.**
* Clear roof of all combustible vegetation, including leaves and pine needles
* Provide a **10 ft.** clearance of all combustibles around LPG tanks.
* Firewood should be stored outside of this zone
Zone 2:

* Provide an additional **70 ft** of reduced fuels for a total of **100 ft** defensible space
  * Grass kept no longer than 4”
  * Limb trees and bushes to avoid contact with the ground
  * Create spacing between trees and bushes to reduce/avoid contact with each other

* Provide a **10 ft.** clearance of all combustibles and vegetation along all property lines that encroach on the 100’ Defensible Space of any structure on your property or adjacent property.

* Limb up all trees approximately **6ft.** from the ground or 1/3 the height of the tree; remove dead limbs; remove ladder fuels.
Minimum 10’ clearance along property lines
Ladder Fuels

Minimum of 6’ Clearance from vegetation to lowest tree limb of all non-ornamental trees
OR
1/3 the height of the tree.

Ladder fuels are created when vegetation of different heights is close enough to allow a ground fire to climb up into tree tops.
HOW SLOPE AFFECTS FIRE SPREAD . . .

- Fires burn faster uphill
  - Preheating of fuels
  - Wind
  - Topography

- The steeper the slope, the faster the rate of spread
• Grass trimmed
• Tree limbed up 6ft or 1/3 height of the tree
• Debris removed
Highly Recommended Suggestion

Take before and after pictures of your work.

• Give the property owner copies of pictures upon completion of job
• Put a reference point in your pictures
  • House with address shown
  • Fence lines
  • Surrounding buildings for vacant lots
• Eliminates controversy
• ***This will be required in 2021.***